

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

February 28, 2006

Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Seen a good film lately?

Latest releases now playing on Patch

Page 4



photos.com

It's a great time to be a film fan in Stuttgart. Following a six-month closure for an extensive renovation, the Patch Theater is doing record business – thanks in no small part to AAFES's decision to feature first-run, first-week films here. For a closer look at all the theater has to offer – and a sneak peek into what it will take to ensure that Stuttgart continues to show the latest hits before most other on-post theaters in Europe – see page 4.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Pages 8 & 9

AFAP aims to improve local quality of life

Attendees at Stuttgart's 2006 Army Family Action Plan conference work together to find ways to improve the community.



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Olympic flame shines spotlight on Turin

The focus of the sporting world's attention for two recent weeks, Turin is also an enticing vacation destination.



Words of Wisdom

The following is a brief selection of notable quotes from some of history's most prominent African-American men and women. The individuals quoted here are excellent starting points for those who wish to learn more about the rich heritage of African-Americans. For a look at how Garmisch celebrated Black History Month see page 12.

I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, nor lurking behind my eyes. Even in the helter-skelter skirmish that is my life, I have seen that the world is to the strong regardless of a little pigmentation, more or less.

No, I do not weep at the world — I am too busy sharpening my oyster knife.

— Zora Neale Hurston, 20th century American writer, in "How It Feels to Be Colored Me," (1928).

We, the people." It is a very eloquent beginning. But when that document [the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution] was completed on the seventeenth of September in 1787, I was not included in that "We, the people."

I felt somehow for many years that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake.

But through the process of amendment, interpretation and court decision, I have finally been included in "We, the people."

— Barbara C. Jordan, the first black woman from the South to serve in the U.S. Congress, in a statement made before the House Committee on the Judiciary, July 25, 1974.

People pay for what they do, and still more for what they have allowed themselves to become. And they pay for it very simply: by the lives they lead.

James Baldwin

20th century American writer

Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

— Martin Luther King Jr.

The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself — the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us — that's where it's at.

— Jesse Owens, U.S. track star who earned four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, in the 1970 book, "Blackthink."

My father was a slave and my people died to build this country, and I'm going to stay right here and have a part of it, just like you.

And no fascist-minded people like you will drive me from it. Is that clear?

— Paul Robeson, in his June 12, 1956, testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Anger, used, does not destroy. Hatred does.

— Audre Lorde, 20th century poet, educator and activist, in her essay, "Eye to Eye."

source: www.factmonster.com

CORRECTION

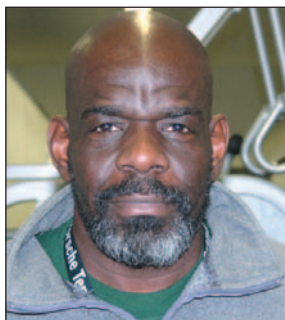
An article in the Feb. 14 edition of The Citizen incorrectly identified Drew Benson Garmisch's Youth Sports Director. Mr. Benson no longer holds this position.

Also, Garmisch was one of four communities in Europe to be honored by the National Association of Town Watch, not one of two as was previously reported.

ON THE STREET

Who is history's most inspirational African-American man or woman?

— Compiled by Antonio Brunetti



Ricky Payton

Crispus Attucks. A lot of people don't remember him, but he was one of the first people killed by the British at the start of the Revolutionary War. The man took a bullet for his country.



Lakesha Clemons

My mother, Harriet Lewis. She brings joy to so many people through her music, and though she's been through hell personally, she is still full of joy. There aren't enough people in the world like her.



Sarah & Becky Walton

Bill Cosby. He's funny and he's a really good actor. Everyone should watch "Kids Say the Darndest Things" and "The Cosby Show." When you watch "The Cosby Show," you don't pay attention to the color of the Huxtable family's skin — you're focused on the fact that they're an American family that everyone can identify with.



John Smith

Coretta Scott King. Behind every strong man is a strong woman. When Martin was weak, she had to be his strength — and after he died, she had to continue their work.



Katina Frazier

Oprah Winfrey. She's not just a wealthy woman — she has donated a lot of money, she helped the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and she even helped catch two sex offenders.



Darlene Taylor

Martin Luther King Jr. What I appreciate about his efforts is that they were tender and humane. He wanted everyone to come together in a more Christian way.



Corren Stevens

Maya Angelou. She is able to relate to everyone, not only women. In any situation — social or political — she crosses color boundaries and writes with heart.

THE CITIZEN

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

Serving Army Families since 1942

Army Emergency Relief 2006

Fundraising campaigns in Stuttgart, Garmisch scheduled to run from March 15 to April 28

By Hugh C. McBride

Members of the Stuttgart and Garmisch military communities will soon have the opportunity to help provide financial support to Soldiers and their families in times of need.

The 2006 fundraising campaign for the Army Emergency Relief Fund is March 15 to April 28 in Stuttgart and Garmisch.

Tradition of support

AER has provided financial aid to almost three million Soldiers and family members since its inception in 1942.

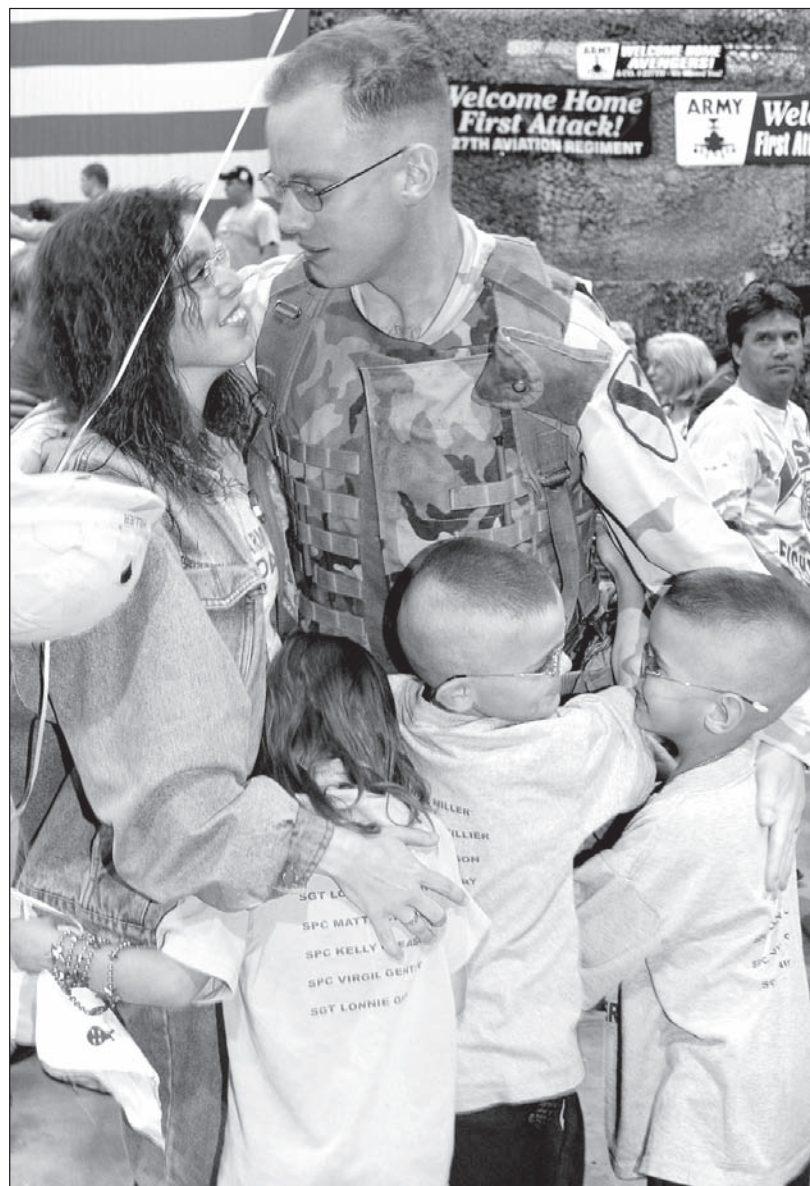
"Since its birth, AER has always been where Soldiers are stationed when they needed help," the campaign's president, retired Gen. E.C. Myer, wrote in a letter posted on the AER Web site (www.hqar.org).

"Though many things have changed over the years, one thing remains constant: our commitment to our longstanding principle of caring for your financial emergency with integrity and professionalism," Myer added.

According to the AER Web site, the fund is designed to provide financial assistance (interest-free loans or grants) to individuals in the following categories:

- Soldiers on extended active duty and their dependents.
- Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their dependents.
- Soldiers retired from active duty because of longevity or physical disability, or retired upon reaching age 60 (Reserve Components) and their dependents.
- Surviving spouses and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired.

For more about AER call 421-2345/civ. 0711-729-2345, e-mail ty.stearn@us.army.mil, visit www.aerhq.org or see the March 14 edition of The Citizen.



courtesy U.S. Army

A Soldier is greeted by his family upon his return to Fort Hood, Texas. For more than six decades, Army Emergency Relief has relied upon community donations to support Army families in times of both war and peace. The 2006 AER campaign begins March 15 in Stuttgart and Garmisch.

Citizen named best in Europe

Stuttgart paper earns seven 'Ware' awards, will represent IMA-EURO at Army level

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The command information paper that serves the military communities of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch was named the top tabloid-format publication in Europe during the Installation Management Agency Europe Region's 2005 Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Journalism Award competition.

In the e-mail that announced the judging results, IMA-EURO Chief of Public Affairs Kim Walz included a special congratulations to the USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office staff for a "dominant showing" in the competition.

In addition to topping the publication category, The Citizen also earned the following awards:

- Special Achievement in Print Media (1st Place) – Special Edition: Transformation (July 5, 2005)
- Feature Article (1st Place) – Hugh C. McBride

- Commentary (1st Place) – Hugh C. McBride
 - Sports Article (1st Place) – Hugh C. McBride
 - Commentary (2nd Place) – Melanie Casey
 - News Article (Honorable Mention) – Christine Castro
- The Citizen's five first-place winners will represent IMA-EURO in the Department of the Army's Keith L. Ware competition, which will be adjudicated in March.

Established in 1970 to honor outstanding military journalists, the Ware awards were named in honor of the Medal of Honor recipient who was the highest-ranking U.S. service member to be killed in Vietnam.

"The competition is much more than a 'beauty contest' for our newspapers. It enables our journalists to receive professional feedback and suggestions for improvement by experts in their field," said IMA-EURO Director Russell Hall. "The competition also helps our writers and editors receive high-level recognition for their skill and dedication."

News & Notes

YS sports registration underway

Registration for youth baseball, softball and soccer is underway. Baseball and softball cost is \$40 per child; soccer cost is \$30 per child. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services and must have a valid physical on file that lasts through the entire season.

For more information call 430-7480/civ. 0711680-7480.

ACS supports patients, families

• Stuttgart's Army Community Service hosts a **Cancer Support Group** Thursdays, noon to 1 p.m., in the ACS office on Patch Barracks (building 2307, second floor). There is no charge to participate in this group.

• ACS's next **Parenting with Love and Logic** series begins in March. Classes for parents of newborns to six-year-olds are March 7, 14, 21 and 28 and April 4.

Classes for parents of children of all ages are March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 and April 6. All classes are 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the ACS office on Patch.

• For more information about these and many other ACS programs call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

'Urinetown' featured on Kelley stage

The Stuttgart Entertainment Branch's European premiere of the Broadway smash "URINETOWN: the musical" continues for two more weekends.

This laugh-filled musical farce will have audiences rolling in the aisles six more times: March 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 (show time each night is 7:30 p.m.).

For more information or to reserve a seat visit www.kelleytheatre.de or call 421-2825/civ. 0711-729-2825.

Scouts 'Thinking Day' on RB

Stuttgart-area Girl Scouts will celebrate "Thinking Day" with a March 11 event in the Robinson Barracks Elementary School. The afternoon will feature booths, displays and Girl Scout swaps.

For more information call Gail Simpson at 0711-674-2984 or e-mail stuttgartgirlscouts@yahoo.com.

Spring Bazaar "Bucks" and raffle

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club Spring Bazaar is March 17 to 19, and a variety of vendor merchandise will be given as raffle prizes. This year's raffle will have a twist: Buy tickets early to be eligible for an early bird drawing for a \$100 shopping spree with "Bazaar Bucks."

Five of these fantastic prizes will be awarded March 13. Bazaar Bucks can be applied toward the purchase of any bazaar merchandise, and winners receive VIP shopping privileges before the bazaar opens.

Buy your tickets at the Patch Thrift Store or look for raffle representatives on hand at the Patch Commissary.

As always, volunteers make a difference. To donate your time contact the volunteer coordinator at 0711-882-1917 or e-mail scsclubbazaarvolunteer@yahoo.com.

Civilian Fitness Program begins

Enrollments and assessments for the Civilian Fitness Program will be done in March at the Stuttgart Wellness Center.

Both Department of the Army civilians and local nation employees may be authorized up to three hours work time per week for six months to participate in this program.

For more information or to register call 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073 or e-mail terr.tokar@us.army.mil.

Tour, explore with USO

• **March 4 – Hello Stuttgart:** This tour will introduce you to Stuttgart and its surroundings. This tour includes a city tour and USO escort. Bring euros for shopping and lunch. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for children.

• **March 8 – Zurich, Switzerland:** On our way to Zurich, we will stop at the Rhinefall – the famous waterfall in Schaffhausen. From there, the city of Zurich awaits. After a guided city tour, the afternoon is yours for sightseeing or shopping. Bring valid U.S. passport, euro and Swiss francs for this trip. Cost is \$69 per adult and \$64 per child.

• For more information about these and the many other exciting travel opportunities offered by the Stuttgart USO, visit the USO office (Patch Barracks, Washington Center, first floor), call 430-5559/civ. 0711-680-5559 or visit www.uso.org/stuttgart.

Patch Theater doing record business

Film fans flocking to first-run features

By Terri Alejandro

The community watched last year as the Patch Theater underwent a transformation that was nothing short of amazing. Extensive remodeling resulted in a larger, brighter, better-equipped facility providing patrons a comfortable, affordable and family-friendly environment.

One of the most important changes, however, had nothing to do with construction – it had to do with the what was showing on the screen.

“We call them first-run, first-week movies, and they are something Stuttgart never got in the past,” said Lee Muslin, AAFES European Command Region General Manager.

Great news for movie lovers! No more waiting months to see a movie you’ve heard and read about. The good stuff is up on the big screen, playing now, in a theater near you!

AAFES distributes new films according to the bottom line. The theaters with highest attendance and revenue get the new films first.

AAFES decided to give the Patch Theater a 90-day trial period to see if the new facility could generate sales sufficient to retain its first-run, first-week status. So far, so good. Business, as they say, is booming.

“In January 2005 we were number 13 in Europe for revenue,” said AAFES restaurant business manager, Tom Gagnon. “January 2006 and we’re now number 2 in Europe, a 75% increase in sales,” he said.

Plans are in motion to keep patrons engaged and build a strong, repeat customer base. “We will continue to offer promotions throughout the year to keep the excitement going,” Muslin said.

To increase weekday ticket sales, AAFES has come up with daily specials, which are offered Mondays through Thursdays:

- Start the week off right by getting everyone together and heading to the movies for **Family & Friends Night**. You get movie admission for four people, 2 large popcorns and four medium drinks for \$19.95. The two-person version of the special is \$9.95 and includes two admissions, a large popcorn and two medium drinks.

- Tuesday is **Dinner and a Movie Night**. Before the movie, if you grab a bite to eat at any Patch Barracks AAFES food facility, save your receipt. Present it at snack bar and get a free large popcorn. “We will even accept receipts from food purchases made at lunch time so long as they are dated Tuesday,” Muslin said.

- On Wednesday’s **Show your State Night**, your stateside driver’s license can get you a free large popcorn. Each week, in alphabetical order, a different state is featured. Good news for Alabama, Alaska and Arizona; those from West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming will have to be patient, but their day will come.

- Thursdays is **Military Appreciation Night**, and each Thursday will reward the members of the different services with a large popcorn just for showing their military identification card. The first Thursday of the month will be Army, the second, Marines, the third will be Air Force and the fourth, Navy. In months that have five Thursdays, members of all services are winners.

Moviegoers should keep in mind that the lobby opens an hour prior to each showing. “For movies like Narnia, which was completely sold out, you had to get there early to make sure you got your ticket,” said Josh Gannon, Theater Lead Supervisor.

The “Reel Time Express” snack bar added personal pan pizzas to their menu and those go quick; another reason to arrive early. In addition to the pizzas you can munch on hot dogs, popcorn and nachos in the bistro lobby area.

First-run films, great snacks, and a variety of specials, all offered in a top-notch facility. What more could movie lovers ask for? Get to the theater already!

A family-friendly environment

In addition to the latest releases, the Patch Theater also offers family-friendly options:

The Family Room

- Located upstairs in a soundproof room are nine comfortable, stadium-style seats with an unobstructed view of the screen.

- Perfect for those with babies or parents teaching their little ones “movie manners,” it lets kids be kids while mom and dad enjoy the movie.

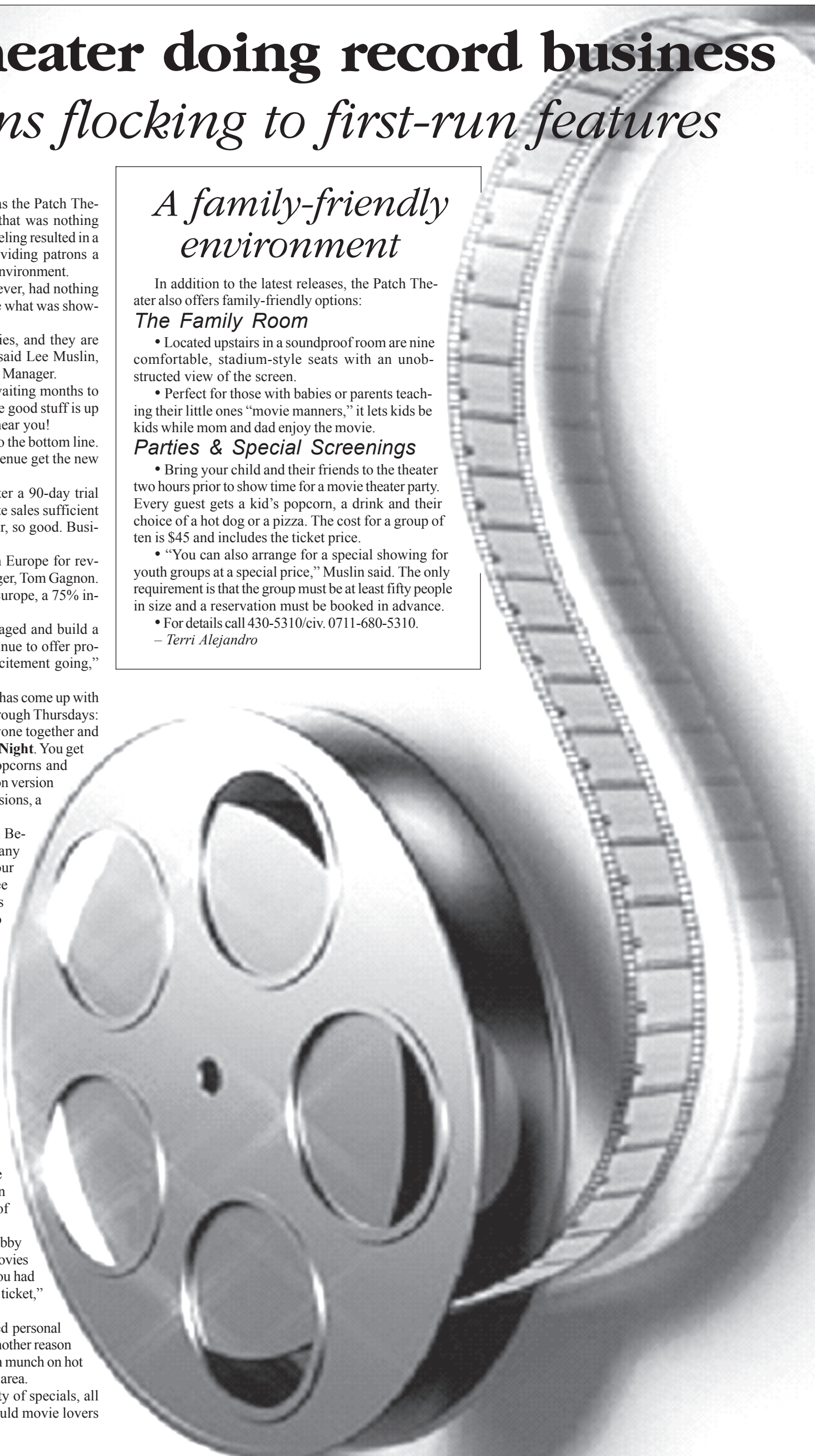
Parties & Special Screenings

- Bring your child and their friends to the theater two hours prior to show time for a movie theater party. Every guest gets a kid’s popcorn, a drink and their choice of a hot dog or a pizza. The cost for a group of ten is \$45 and includes the ticket price.

- “You can also arrange for a special showing for youth groups at a special price,” Muslin said. The only requirement is that the group must be at least fifty people in size and a reservation must be booked in advance.

- For details call 430-5310/civ. 0711-680-5310.

– Terri Alejandro



587th Signal Co. earns Armywide honor

Stuttgart unit receives Superior Unit Award

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

The men and women of the Stuttgart-based 587th Signal Company have a special addition to the category of "things worth waiting for": the Army's Superior Unit Award.

It took a few years for the paperwork to wend its way through the system, but the 587th formally received its Superior Unit Award (for service in support of U.S. European Command from Oct. 2002 to Sept. 2003) during a Feb. 1 ceremony in the Patch Theater.

A proud day

"This is a very proud day for this great company and this excellent battalion," said 5th Signal Command Commander Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via, who was the featured speaker at the award presentation ceremony.

"It goes without saying that the accomplishments of this organization are very distinguished," Via said. "587th Signal Co. Soldiers provide superior communication services ... a huge and very important mission. You should all be very, very proud of this magnificent accomplishment."

An essential mission

A component of the 52nd Signal Battalion, which is headquartered on Stuttgart's Patch Barracks, the 587th supports the 2nd Signal Brigade's mission of providing strategic communications support to the European theater of operation's information grid.

587th Signal Company Soldiers provide superior communication services. You should all be very, very proud of this magnificent accomplishment.

Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via
5th Signal Command

"The manner in which 587th Signal Company Soldiers serve is magnificent," said Company Commander Capt. Kevin T. Reeves. "I am excited and honored to be part of the best signal company in the 5th Signal Command."

About the award

Instituted in April 1985, the Superior Unit Award is earned by "outstanding meritorious performance of a difficult and challenging mission carried out under extraordinary circumstances" during peacetime.

For purposes of this award, peacetime is defined as "any period during which wartime or combat awards are not authorized in the geographical area in which the mission was executed."



[Above] 587th Signal Company Commander Capt. Kevin T. Reeves and First Sergeant Erica Gholar add the Superior Unit Award streamer to the 587th guidon during the company's Feb. 1 award presentation ceremony in the Patch Theater.



[Left] After presenting the Superior Unit Award to the 587th Signal Company, 5th Signal Command Commander Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via leads the Soldiers in a set of post-ceremony pushups.

Stuttgart honored for best CFC fundraising campaign in community's history

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart was one of two garrisons to be honored by the Installation Management Agency Europe Region for superior performance during the Combined Federal Campaign Overseas 2005 fundraising drive.

"The men and women of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart truly showed their heart by leading the way in Europe with the area's best CFC campaign ever," said Jeff McMullen, the garrison's CFC-O coordinator.

"The fantastic effort made by all who participated will be recognized during the garrison's next tenants' meeting," McMullen added.

The service members and civilians of USAG Stuttgart contributed \$117,148 during the 2005 CFC-O fundraising effort, besting the area's campaign goal by more than \$5,000, McMullen noted.

The 2005 total also exceeded the amount raised in 2004 by more than \$12,000, he said.

'An astounding effort'

The Stuttgart effort was part of a very successful campaign throughout the overseas military community, McMullen noted. "Military and civilian personnel came together to make this year's CFC-Overseas campaign a huge success," he said.

"This year over \$16 million dollars was raised in one of the most successful campaigns among all the DoD components overseas. In just 10 weeks, U.S. military members and civilians in Europe contributed an astounding

The service members and civilians of USAG Stuttgart contributed \$117,148 during the 2005 CFC-O fundraising effort, besting the area's goal by more than \$5,000.

\$6 million toward that goal," he said.

Excellence across the board

Of the 40 units that reported to the garrison, 31 earned a unit award for its fundraising result.

"One of CFC's highest honors, the Platinum unit award plaque was awarded to 15 units – an astounding 38 percent of the units within the garrison's CFC footprint," McMullen said.

The local unit award breakdown is as follows:

- Platinum Award (average donation of \$200 or 85 percent participation) – 15 units
- Gold Award (average donation of \$120 or 60 percent participation) – Nine units
- Silver Award (average donation of \$90 or 50 percent participation) – Two units
- Bronze Award (average donation \$60 or 40 percent participation) – Five units

"Our hats are off to all of those who gave from the heart," McMullen said.

Nominees needed for Incentive Awards

• The Army in Europe Annual Incentive Awards Ceremony 2006 affords commanders and managers an opportunity to publicly recognize their employees (service members and civilians) for noteworthy accomplishments in a number of special emphasis areas.

• Commanders and heads of organizations are encouraged to aggressively solicit nominations for individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to the Army mission during the 2005 calendar year.

• Nominations for this prestigious awards ceremony must be submitted by Mar. 24 to the proponent agencies.

• Winners will be recognized at the July ceremony in Heidelberg.

For complete information and a nomination form visit www.per.hqusaer.army.mil/CPD/Awards/default.aspx.

Community Spouses Club 'grants' wishes

Spring Bazaar profits provide year's worth of opportunities

By Terri Alejandro

You can't stretch your arms out in this garrison without touching someone who has benefited from the dedication, and vigorous fundraising efforts, of the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club.

The SCSC contributes to a wide variety of private organizations, youth groups, local units and other organizations that support our community members, such as the Fisher House and Habitat for Humanity.

Why do they do it? Hospitality Chair Kathy Anderson says it best. "We're a group that likes to get together, have a great time, raise a lot of money and give it all away."

So how much is "a lot?" In 2005 they gave away \$142,956.53. Back up and read that amount again. Even more amazing is the fact that 75% of those funds, just over \$108,000, were raised over a three-day period. And how did the SCSC raise all that money so quickly? Two words – Spring Bazaar.

The SCSC Spring Bazaar is a three-day mega-event held every year on Patch Barracks. Organized by the SCSC, the shopping extravaganza has vendors from all over Europe offering a dazzling array of merchandise.

The activity stretches the length of Pennsylvania Strasse, filling every corner of the Patch Community Club, the Youth Services building, and the gymnasium. That's a lot of square footage to fill, but it still isn't enough. Two enormous tents are also required to provide sufficient space to house the 70-plus vendors and their wares.

Merchandise will be available from Russia, Turkey, Italy, Holland, France, Poland, the UK and some of the very best goods Germany has to offer. Whether your passion is fine rugs or fine wines, cuckoo clocks or Birkenstocks, odds are good you can find something you just have to have at the Spring Bazaar.

Between venues, there will be many opportunities for refreshment. If all that shopping leaves you worn out, take a break. Grab a seat at the fest table in the Busnauer Hof restaurant and treat yourself to a hearty German meal.

Want to stay on the go and just need a quick bite to refuel? Check out the goodies on sale at the small ball field next to the Gussy Goose. There will be a variety of foodstuffs for sale by private organizations which take advantage of the bazaar setting to raise some funds of their own.

Burgers right off the grill, barbecue plates, hot wings, nachos and lumpia are but a sample of the tasty treats which will be on sale throughout the bazaar.

As shoppers head home with their treasures they also take with them the knowledge that every dollar spent helped fund a worthy cause. Profits from the bazaar finance the philanthropy for which the SCSC is so well known.

Funds will be distributed by the welfare and scholarship committees, in the forms of grants and scholarships, over the course of the year. 100% of the bazaar's profits – as in all of it – every cent, will be funneled back into the community, creating countless opportunities for youth and adults alike.

Show us the money

Private organizations, event committees, official charities and military units are examples of groups who request funds. These groups can request funds twice during the SCSC fiscal year. Requestors submit a welfare application form, which is brief, simple and can be submitted via e-mail.

Which organizations receive grants and how much is given is decided in one of two ways. The SCSC Governing Board approves requests up to \$2,000. Turn around time for the application process is approximately 20 days. Requests for over \$2,000 are taken before the general membership for approval and require a longer period for approval.

As part of the decision making process when awarding grants, the SCSC doesn't necessarily focus on the type of event or the number of members in an organization. "We look at whether or not the grant would allow something otherwise not possible," said Karen Taylor, SCSC Welfare Chair.

Helping our students

A recent example was the January donation of \$3,900 to the Patch American High School Model United Nations Program. The funds were used to help pay the costs for students participating in the Hague International Model United Nations Conference, a five-day simulation of the United Nations.

The grant reduced out-of-pocket costs for several high school students, making it possible for them to take part



Family readiness group members, Scouts, youth and adult athletes, students and graduating seniors are just a few of the many individuals and organizations who benefit from the generosity of the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club.

in the event.

Sometimes grants are used to prime the pump, so to speak. Patch Drama teacher, Elizabeth Casciaro, is taking 23 drama students on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to London. The SCSC grant paid for the airline tickets which got the ball rolling.

"They [the SCSC] believed in us first," Casciaro said. "They made it possible for us to even consider such a trip."

In the last year, SCSC grants totaling \$22,438 were donated to various organizations at Patch American High School. In addition to the drama department and the model United Nations, the money went into the art activity fund, toward the purchase of music books and even helped the senior class pay the rental fee for the Sindelfingen Stadthalle for their graduation ceremony.

The PAHS Sports Booster Club got a huge boost from the SCSC. The \$6,230 the club received went towards football team shirts, volleyball and softball equipment, cheerleader uniforms, shirts for the girls' tennis team, spirit items and end-of-season awards and plaques.

The elementary schools benefited to the tune of \$13,295 overall. The Robinson Barracks Elementary Parent Teacher Association used their grants to purchase youth software and playground balls as well as to support the school's Accelerated Reader Program. "The students were so appreciative that they used their new software to write over 100 thank you notes," said Taylor.

Receiving SCSC funds "makes a big difference, especially at RB," said Melody Rudy, Robinson Barracks Elementary School PTA president.

Funding extracurricular fun

Don't think the only groups receiving funds are school-oriented. The Stuttgart Pirahnas Swim Team, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, The Sitzmarkers Ski Club and the American Little League all received generous grants.

In almost every instance, the SCSC funds serve as a much-needed subsidy allowing more participation and lowering individual expenses.

The ripple effect stemming from SCSC fundraising efforts is felt across the garrison. Junior service members can attend a military ball because the SCSC donation covered their ticket.

Child and Youth Services used their grant to purchase gifts given to 135 child care providers at their Provider Appreciation Night event.

SCSC funds bought scouting paraphernalia for Cub Scout Pack 324 and helped make their Blue and Gold Banquet a success.

The Stuttgart Eishockey Club was able to rent the

"We're a group that likes to get together, have a great time, raise a lot of money and give it all away."

Kathy Anderson

Stuttgart Community Spouses Club

Kornwestheim Eishalle for eight community ice hockey and skating development sessions.

The Stuttgart Sabercats Wrestling team purchased training videos and books as well as uniforms and supplies used at tournaments.

Making it all possible

Every year a large chunk of SCSC money is set aside for scholarships. These merit-based scholarships are awarded to high school seniors and command sponsored spouses. \$35,000 has been earmarked for the scholarship program this year.

"Traditionally, scholarships are awarded to students graduating from high school and entering their first semester of college," said Gail Simpson, Scholarship Chair. Last year was the first year the SCSC expanded the application process to include spouses, "providing a wonderful opportunity for them to continue their education," Simpson said.

Raquel Hicks was a member of the first group of spouses awarded scholarships last year. The funds covered the cost of four classes, plus books, greatly assisting Hicks as she pursues a degree in information technology.

"Getting the scholarship certainly accelerated my education plan," Hicks said.

The common thread woven through every donation is this: SCSC grants and scholarships create opportunities and make so many things possible for so many people.

As a member of the welfare committee, and this year's Bazaar Chair, Sonja Jackson knows how much hard work it takes to make the Spring Bazaar a success and how many enthusiastic volunteers it takes to make that hard work look easy.

What matters most to her is helping others. "This community is our first priority," Jackson said. An organization that epitomizes the phrase, "selfless service", the SCSC proves, year round, it really does feel good to give.

Patch Barracks, Stuttgart

Spring BAZAAR

Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club

March **17, 18 & 19**

Friday 11:30-19:00, Sat. 10:00-19:00, Sunday 11:00-16:00
at the Patch Fitness Center, Youth Services & Community Center



Open to all military ID card holders, NATO Forces, civilians and reservists with TDY orders.



+ personal checks accepted



Army Family Action Plan 2006

Annual symposium seeks solutions to improve quality of life in overseas military community

Local conference continues tradition of results-oriented effort

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

Thank the Army Family Action Plan for the new Patch High School gym floor. And renovated Patch Theater. And a full-time pediatrician at the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic.

All of these improvements are the result of one thing: AFAP.

The 2006 U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and Garmisch AFAP conference was held Feb. 10 in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

More than 70 delegates from all walks of military life – active duty service members, civilians, retirees, reservists and family members – served together on panels in five work groups (Medical/Dental Services, Consumer Services, Community Improvements, Force Support and Youth and Education Services) to help identify issues in the community and create solutions.

How it works

AFAP helps to resolve quality of life issues in military communities, and the goal of the program is to identify and prioritize issues by focusing on creative ways to improve customer service and satisfaction.

Since its inception in 1984, AFAP has resulted in 92 changes to legislation, 153 new or improved programs or services and 143 Department of Defense or Army policy changes.

The AFAP process begins on the local level.

Every U.S. Army Garrison holds its own annual AFAP conference, during which delegates discuss issues specific to both their community and the Army. Prior to this local conference, military community members are invited to submit their quality of life concerns.

These issues are then discussed among the AFAP delegates who are charged with determining the most important – and most workable – concerns. This final list is then presented to the U.S. Army Garrison commander.

Many AFAP issues can be resolved locally, but those that can't are forwarded to the Installation Management Agency Europe Region, and may even be forwarded through to the Headquarters, Department of the Army AFAP conference for resolution.

Serving the entire community

This year's AFAP delegates conferred throughout the day and consulted as needed with subject matter experts who were on hand to help clarify the issues and construct viable solutions.

Although several issues per group were initially considered, the number needed to be wheedled down to a few workable problems per group.

For instance, the Consumer Services group headed by Sandra Takaki initially had 22 issues on the table. What was key for delegates as they decided which were the most crucial was to "look at both what's important to the whole community and doable," Takaki said.

Force Support delegate Brenda Loeb, taking part in her fourth AFAP conference, said the process is "a good way to get to know your community and what issues are important."

An outstanding experience

USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth Juergens said that the issues presented this year were "outstanding," and at the conclusion of the conference he thanked the delegates and subject matter experts.

He also thanked U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater III, saying that, "as a colonel [I] can only do so much ... but with three stars on your shoulder and if you care, there's a heck of a lot you can do."

Broadwater was instrumental in facilitating the recent renovation of the PHS gym floor – one of the recommendations from last year's AFAP Youth and Education group.

Since that time, he said, more than \$10 million has been allocated to make PHS a better facility.

"These things are doable," Broadwater said of the 2006 AFAP recommendations. "That's what I asked you to do and I'm really proud of you."

So for those of you out there who notice things that need improvement, write them down. Keep track of them, and early next year, submit them to the AFAP coordinator for consideration. By taking an active role in your community, you can help make it a better place for all of us to live.

For more about the local AFAP effort visit www.stuttgart.army.mil. Select "Army Community Service" from the menu on the left side of the home page, then click "Army Family Action Plan."

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and Garmisch 2006 AFAP recommendations

Below are the 2006 U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and Garmisch AFAP recommendations. Most will be addressed on the local level, but those that can't are forwarded to Installation Management Agency - Europe AFAP or the Headquarters, Department of the Army AFAP conference for resolution.

Force Support

1. In order to avoid confusion regarding retirees' eligibility to use base facilities, guidance and training needs to be given to both service providers and retirees.
2. Allow people to donate sick leave and make available the option to "cash in" sick leave as with annual leave.
3. Change the overseas policy that denies entitlements to local hire civilians or causes loss of entitlements due to change in sponsorship status.

Consumer Services

1. Authorize shipment of a second vehicle for service members with dependents during an overseas tour, or pay for storage of second vehicle.
2. Improve communication regarding childcare service options by restructuring the wait list prioritization process, using a childcare checklist during inprocessing, improving childcare advertising and reducing costs for Parents' Night Out.
3. Authorize permanent, long-term mental health counselors and provide more information regarding counseling services both on and off base.

Community Safety & Improvement

1. Renovate Stuttgart's single service member barracks.
2. Install air conditioners in the Patch Gym cardio room and all Child and Youth Service facilities.
3. Increase standards of crosswalk lighting and assess for additional crosswalk lighting installation.
4. Improve snow removal plan on Artillery Kaserne in Garmisch.

Youth & Education

1. Renovate, improve access and add spectator seating to Bowman Field.
2. Replace bleachers in the PHS gym.
3. Expand PHS music room.
4. Purchase new computers for the PHS Web Design class so school Web site can be updated and modernized.
5. Begin a Pop-Warner football program for youth in grades 3 to 8.
6. Replace pool table in the Garmisch Middle School Teen Center.
7. Improve pedestrian access on Artillery Kaserne.

Medical & Dental Services

1. Implement accurate accounting procedures to reflect non-Tricare beneficiaries treatment and increase staffing for Stuttgart Army Health Clinic.
2. Improve and implement programs for children with special needs.



Army Family Action Plan delegates in the Youth and Education group met Feb. 10 in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks to discuss quality of life issues that affect the younger members of the Stuttgart and Garmisch military communities. The Youth & Education section was one of five groups that evaluated issues and proposed solutions during the 2006 AFAP Conference.

AFAP: Just the Facts

What is the AFAP Conference?

The AFAP conference is a grassroots effort in which delegates selected from the Army family come together to discuss quality-of-life issues.

Who can participate in the AFAP process?

The process encompasses and is available to everyone closely associated with the Army family. When we refer to "the Army family", we are speaking of the global Army family – active-duty and reserve component Soldiers, retirees, civilians who work for the Army, and family members of all those groups. These are the individuals who make the AFAP work.

Where do the issues come from?

Issue submission forms are distributed throughout communities through several different avenues – family readiness groups, unit commanders, Web site, and various information boxes placed in common areas throughout the installation. The delegation is also encouraged to bring forward issues from the area they represent.

What kind of issues can be submitted?

There is no limit to the type of issue that can be submitted for consideration. Suggested categories include the following: Entitlements, Benefits, Education, Family Support, Leadership, Reserve/National Guard, Relocation, Transition, Health Care, Consumer Services, Housing, Soldier Support, Dental Care, Volunteers and Youth.

Do the issues submitted have to be local issues?

The process allows for any level of issue to be submitted. Some issues can be resolved at the local level; however, some issues require higher-level resolution such as new legislation.

What actually happens at the conference?

The delegates are broken up into working groups to examine the issues, recommend resolutions and determine which issues they consider the most important to the welfare of the Army family. Each work group must prioritize their issues, and select no more than three that they recommend be incorporated in the Army Family Action Plan. All issues recommended for the plan are briefed to the members of the local command group.

What happens to issues that cannot be resolved at the local level?

If an issue prioritized at the local conference is applicable outside of the local community, it is forwarded to the major Army command and incorporated into the MACOM AFAP conference. If the issue has Army-wide applicability, however, it is forwarded to Community and Family Support Center (CFSC), where the AFAP staff consolidates all issues from the field and prepares them to be reviewed by delegates at the HQDA AFAP Conference.

How long does it take for an issue to be resolved?

Some issues can resolved within 90 days of the conference, however, some issues that require higher level action such as changes to Army and OSD regulatory guidance and policy and to federal law require time to accomplish. Some issues prove more difficult to resolve than others. On the average, issues at the HQDA level take 2 ½ years to complete.

How do we know when and how the issues are resolved?

Local issues are tracked for status and resolution by a Steering Committee. The DA level Plan is followed by a General Officer Steering Committee – at this level issues may be resolved by changing existing programs and services or establishing new ones, by changing or establishing Army or OSD policy, or by changing or enacting legislation.

Source: www.fortcampbellmvr.com

Tax season

Provisions ease filing for service members

By Sgt. Sara Wood

American Forces Information Service

Tax season has once again arrived, and military personnel should know several things to make filing their returns easier and more beneficial.

One of the most notable changes to the tax code this year is the addition of provisions for victims of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

The provisions for hurricane victims are lengthy and complicated, so service members who were affected by the hurricane should seek advice from their installation tax center or the Internal Revenue Service, Fenton said.

Possible extensions

The provisions can include extensions for tax filing and help for those who lost homes or property, she said. Service members who spent time deployed have important things to keep in mind when filing their taxes, Fenton said.

For example, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo all qualify as combat zones where military income is tax exempt, she said. For enlisted service members, all income earned in a combat zone is exempt, but for officers, income is excluded up to a certain limit.

For 2005, the limit for officers' tax-exempt income was \$6,529 a month, she said. Tax-exempt income is a great thing, but it has worked against some service members by exempting them from important credits, Fenton said.

Two credits that military members often qualify for — earned income credit and child tax credit — require earned income to be claimed, she said. Starting this year, service members can elect to include their combat zone income to qualify for these credits, she explained.

She stressed that this income will not be taxed, but will

allow service members to receive credits they qualify for. "Just because you think you didn't have earned income due to your combat zone time, it's worth your effort to go to the tax center and find out if you do qualify for these two important credits," Fenton said.

Service members in a combat zone during tax season get an automatic extension to file their taxes, Fenton said. Servicemembers have six months from the time they leave the combat zone to file, she said.

Service members who are stationed elsewhere overseas have a two-month extension to file. Almost every military installation offers a tax center for military, retired military and family members, Fenton added.

Volunteers at the center are trained by the IRS and military legal office and can provide advice or assistance in filing taxes.

Returns filed through the tax center are sent electroni-

cally, and people will receive their refunds within seven to 10 days, she said.

"The installations do serve a great benefit to the military member who wants to go and make sure that they've gotten the best information they can.

They've filed it, not only accurately, but taken advantage of any of the deductions and credits that they do qualify for and they may not be aware of on their own," she said.

Each installation determines its tax center's operating hours and whether people need an appointment to come in, Fenton said.

Resources on the Web

Military personnel can also get help online with their taxes, Fenton said. The IRS provides a Free File service on its Web site (www.irs.gov), which lists several tax preparation services, many of which provide free service to military members, she said. The Web site Military OneSource also provides free tax assistance to military members.

"The Internet's invaluable; it allows you to file your taxes from your own home, if you're comfortable enough to do that," Fenton said.

In preparation for filing, service members should make sure they have their W-2 forms from the military and any other jobs they had in the past year, Fenton said.

Service members should also make sure they have Social Security cards for themselves and their dependents, she said.

For active-duty military members, W-2s are available on MyPay.

For more information about filing your 2006 tax returns, visit www.militaryonesource.com (click on the Turbo Tax link) or www.irs.gov (click on the Armed Forces link) or call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Tax Center at 430-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588.



photos.com

Money management made easy

The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program offers a wide range of services to assist service members, retirees and Department of Defense ID cardholders and their families with financial affairs.

Contact ACS to find out how you can benefit from any of the following services:

- Financial counseling
- Checkbook maintenance
- Credit and debt management
- Budget and spending plans
- Bank and credit union services
- Consumer rights and obligations
- Financial Planning Course for high school students
- Personal financial readiness
- Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA)
- Consumer Advocacy Program
- School lunch program
- Army Emergency Relief (AER)

Call ACS at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176 for more info.

Stuttgart center simplifies tax preparation process

The Stuttgart Tax Center offers an array of information and assistance for community members. The following are "just the facts" about the center:

- **Location** — Kelley Barracks, building 3312 (second floor, room 231).
- **Hours of Operation** — Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Duration of Operation** — Jan. 25 to June 15.
- **Phone Number** — 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588.
- **Appointments** — Available by calling the phone number above, but walk-ins are welcome on a space-available basis until 4 p.m. (Individuals with complicated returns are urged to make an appointment.)

Community members who wish to use the tax center's services are advised to bring the following documents and information with them:

- Military identification card(s).
- Social Security Number(s) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number(s) for all dependents.
- All applicable W-2 and 1099 forms.
- Bank information (including routing number and account number) for direct deposit of return.
- Previous year's tax return (if available).
- Power of attorney (if filing jointly and spouse cannot be present). Ideally, both spouses should be present.
- Any other relevant tax-related documents



Armed Forces receive TurboTax service free of charge.

Visit www.militaryonesource.com and click on the Log On Now TurboTax link to benefit.

Marshall Center hosts VTC with Condoleezza Rice

Secretary of State addresses students from 49 nations, discusses effort to spread, sustain democracy

George C. Marshall Center
Public Affairs Office

The key to spreading and sustaining democracy is for leaders to remain visionary and optimistic, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told more than 200 students from 49 countries Feb. 10.

Rice addressed the students, faculty and staff of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in a late-afternoon teleconference from the State Department in Washington, D.C.

The students were participants in the Center's 12-week Program in Advanced Security Studies and its five-week Program in Terrorism and Security Studies.

'An extraordinary event'

"It really was an extraordinary event for our participants to not only interact with the U.S. Secretary of State, but to engage in the kind of no-holds-barred question-and-answer session they did," said Marshall Center Director Dr. John P. Rose.

Rice addressed those present for several minutes, then took questions from the students at the joint U.S. and German Center.

Rice told the students that participating in a Marshall Center program gave them something she finds in short supply.

"The Marshall Center, I think, is one of the finest institutions that has been created in recent times," Rice said. "It really is very important ... after the end of the Cold War, to bring together leaders and future leaders of countries that are concerned about peace, concerned about democracy, concerned about prosperity. I think (attending a Marshall Center program is) a wonderful opportunity for people ... to get to



Rice

'There is no doubt that the great challenge of our time now is to see liberty and democracy spread to places where it has not taken root and to sustain and nurture new democracies around the world to the place that they are self-sustaining, and capable and able to deliver for their people..'

Condoleezza Rice
U.S. Secretary of State

know each other and spend some time reflecting on the tremendous events we are all witnessing."

As government officials in the ministries of foreign affairs, defense or the interior for their nations, the students are often participants in the events that affect their home countries. Being a participant makes it hard to find time for reflection, but Rice encouraged the students to "step back and think about the big picture of history that is unfolding before us.

'The great challenge of our time'

"When I do that, I think about the person for whom this center is named, I think about the people like George Marshall, who in 1945 faced a world that was really in ruin after the end of World War II. And I ask myself how those people must have felt every day when they got up and they went to work and thought about the tremendous strategic challenges to democracy that they were facing."

Those who are able to do that will help bring peace and prosperity to today's troubled regions in the same way that the work of George Marshall and his contemporaries led to the peace Europe enjoys today, she said.

"There is no doubt that the great challenge of our time

now is to see liberty and democracy spread to places where it has not taken root and to sustain and nurture new democracies around the world"

Student response

Rice's comments prompted the Marshall Center participants to ask a wide range of questions, including several about the participants' home countries and the U.S. position on issues in the news.

"She was very candid and answered any question that any of our participants cared to ask," Rose said.

"I think both sides benefited, because our participants got to ask direct questions of someone who thinks and operates on a global scale, and the U.S. benefited because these are 200 men and women who, I really believe, are going to be the future ambassadors, general officers, parliamentarians and ministers for their nations," he added. "All are certainly among the very the best, most talented and brightest leaders from 49 different nations. Secretary Rice made a difference and truly enhanced the image of the United States."

For more about the Marshall Center visit www.marshallcenter.org.

Garmisch celebrates MLK Day

Event also honors cultural contributions of all African-Americans

By Sue Ferrare

Soldiers and civilians from both the U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch and the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies crowded into the Dolomiti restaurant Feb. 1 to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. and African American history.

"I feel it is very important for Americans to remember Martin Luther King and celebrate his legacy," said Olivia Apple, an administrative support assistant at the Marshall Center.

"I believe he left behind a framework of advocacy, tolerance and diversity for everyone to model," Apple added. "The holiday serves to remind us to take these issues seriously and make them a reality in our daily lives."

The event's featured speaker, Col. D.A. Harris of U.S. Army, Europe, spoke about the need for people today to step out of their comfort zone.

Unlike the Africans who were taken as slaves more than a century ago, Harris said, we need to "turn the ships around." He also explained that we shouldn't use excuses for why we can't help others and that we need to do what we can to change our society for the good.

"I think [Harris] called on us all to be doers and

'I feel it is very important for Americans to remember Martin Luther King. He left behind a framework of advocacy, tolerance and diversity for everyone to model.'

Olivia Apple
George C. Marshall Center

active in the process of positive change," Apple said.

"Everybody gets caught up in this post-death, saint-like image of Dr. King," she said. "Nobody remembers that at the time of his death he was not very popular due to his opposition to the war in Vietnam. Sometimes standing up for what you think is right is going to make you unpopular."

Standing up for what is right is often cited as an American virtue, which is why Apple said the King holiday is not a "black" holiday.

"It is an American holiday," she said. "He was an American and he stood up for what he believed in."

News & Notes

Tax advisor sought

U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch is seeking a tax advisor for the current tax season. Interested individuals should call Patty Howe at 440-3777/civ. 08821-750-3777 for more information about this opportunity.

Big Mountain Bazaar in March

The Garmisch Community and Spouses Club will hold its **Big Mountain Bazaar** March 14 and 15, noon to 7 p.m. each day, in the Pete Burke Community Center on Artillery Kaserne.

The event is open to all U.S. military and NATO identification cardholders.

Items for sale will include Oriental rugs, jewelry, flatware, antique Dutch furniture and wine.

Volunteers are needed to help set up for the bazaar. If you can donate your time and effort March 12, 13 or 14, e-mail Jahnne Spaulding at spuds141@earthlink.net.

Marriage enrichment dinner

The Garmisch Community Chapel's next marriage enrichment dinner is March 9, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Dolomiti Restaurant on Artillery Kaserne.

Couples who wish to attend – or who would like to learn more about the marriage enrichment dinner series – are encouraged to call 440-2819/civ. 08821-750-2819.

Theater acting workshop

Acclaimed director Judy Rossignuolo-Rice will teach a Theater Acting Workshop March 6, 6:30 p.m., in the Garmisch Play-ers Community Theater.

The seminar, which will last between three and four hours, is free of charge – but a reservation is required to attend. For more information or to reserve a spot in the class call 440-3745/civ. 08821-750-3745.

National Prayer Breakfast 2006

Stuttgart gathering celebrates power of prayer

Story & photo by
Hugh C. McBride

For more than 150 members of the Stuttgart military community, Feb. 9 began in the spirit of both fellowship and fulfillment.

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart/U.S. European Command National Prayer Breakfast event attracted service members and civilians of various faiths to the Patch Community Club for a 7 a.m. gathering that featured remarks by Brig. Gen. Douglas L. Carver, the U.S. Army's deputy chief of chaplains, on the power of prayer and the necessity of sacrifice.

"The National Prayer Breakfast is not an empty ritual," said EUCOM Chaplain (Col.) Vincent J. Inghilterra, who also spoke at the ceremony. "By it we affirm that God and prayer have a place in public life."

In addition to bowing their heads, event attendees also lifted their voices, inspired by musical performances by the U.S. Army, Europe, Brass Quintet; the Panzer Chapel Gospel Choir; and soloist Jennifer Buxkemper.

The scheduled musical num-

March 3 is World Day of Prayer

- The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Chaplain's Office invites all community members to attend a World Day of Prayer worship service in the Patch Chapel, followed by a luncheon in the chaplain's office suite (Washington Center, fourth floor).

- The worship service will begin at 11 a.m., and the luncheon will start at 12:30 p.m.

- For more information call 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.

bers were augmented by a surprise song from Carver, who temporarily traded the podium for the piano bench and incorporated a hymn of praise into his remarks.

"There's something about music that opens our heart to hear God's word," Carver said, recalling the peace that music brought to service members with whom he served during a recent deployment to Iraq.

"Something about music calms the soul," he said.

Turning his attention toward the title of the gathering, Carver described prayer as "not only a tradition in our nation, but also a command from God. We all need

prayer — as a nation and as a world."

The second key component of a relationship with God, Carver said, is sacrifice.

"Sacrifice is all about bringing us close to God," he said. "It is a test of your character. It is a test of what you are made of. God provides for us when we give up all things for him."

The National Prayer Breakfast is an annual interfaith event that is celebrated throughout the United States and in overseas military communities.

The tradition began in 1953, when the event was known as the Presidential Prayer Breakfast.



U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains Brig. Gen. Douglas L. Carver sings a song of praise Feb. 9 in the Patch Community Club.

International military chaplains' group convenes in Garmisch's Edelweiss Resort

Attendees examine diversity, freedom, tolerance

By Sue Ferrare

Top religious leaders from the militaries of 38 nations gathered in Garmisch-Partenkirchen to establish relationships so they can work together to support multi-national operations, said Chaplain (Col.) Vincent J. Inghilterra, European Command chaplain and facilitator of the International Military Chiefs of Chaplains Conference.

The 17th International Conference of Chiefs of Chaplains was held Feb. 13 to 18 at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, and the theme of this year's conference was Religion in the Military Today: Diversity, Freedom and Tolerance.

"The reason for [the conference] is to come to a consensus and understanding in terms of our working together, even though we have every religion represented here," Inghilterra said. "I think the consensus is that nothing from our theological points of view prevents us from working together and respecting each other."

Throughout the conference, senior leaders from various faiths had a chance to speak on this year's theme.

One of the issues discussed was the question of religion as being the cause of

war, Inghilterra said.

"I think the consensus is the fact that religion is used by others as the reason for [war], but that is not the reason why the wars take place," he said.

"None of these religions can sanction violence as we now see it. And that's including Islam," Inghilterra said.

"Religion can be used to exacerbate the situation if we allow it to."

To help combat this situation, Inghilterra challenged all of his chaplains to learn as much of other religions and cultures as possible and to get to know chaplains of other nations as much as possible.

This is "very important because we are going to be working together, hopefully in the work of peace," he said.

He also hopes to get his chaplains more involved with international relations, and to come up with skills that will help them with these kinds of things.

"It's a very exciting thing because we're being called to provide more than just pastoral support to our troops, but also to be an

Nothing from our theological points of view prevents us from working together and respecting each other.

Chaplain (Col.) Vincent J. Inghilterra
European Command chaplain

advisor to the commander on how religion and culture affects the operations," he said. "The Chaplain has to be an expert in this regard, as well as the reconciler and mediator."

Because of this new role chaplains play in the military today, many of the international laws and Geneva conventions are inadequate, Inghilterra said, "we're coming ahead with our own documents [and] our own understandings and insights into these particular questions," Inghilterra said.

The participants of the conference try to "come up with protocols that will allow [the military chaplains], to work well in terms of multinational operations," he added.

These protocols, he explained, then provide the basis for the chaplains in militaries

of different nations to accomplish the following:

- Provide religious coverage and support for troops from different nations
- Advise their commanders
- Give advice on what to do when working in humanitarian actions, civil-military operations, and working with non-governmental organizations.

"In the future we will always fight multinational operations or jointly in ... task forces," Inghilterra said. "That's how we'll operate."

Overall, Inghilterra wanted people to know that even through these times of religious unrest, "here is a group of people who come together from all the faith traditions of this world, and affirm peace," he said.

"And we're right in the heart of government, in the heart of the military. And we'll work together and encourage peace wherever we can find it. And hopefully we'll transmit that to all our chaplains, as they find themselves in these different operations in these different countries."

For more information about EUCOM visit www.eucom.mil

National Dental Health Month

Dental sealants provide smile protection

USAG Stuttgart Dental Clinic release

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Dental Clinic notes that children's teeth are meant to last a lifetime. The dental society has these tips for keeping your child's teeth healthy and decay-free.

Tooth decay is caused by bacteria. The bacteria are found in a sticky, colorless film called plaque.

For tooth decay to occur, three elements are needed: plaque, food containing sugars and starches, and a susceptible tooth.

When foods containing sugars and starches are left in the mouth, plaque bacteria produce acids that can dissolve tooth enamel. The sticky plaque holds these acids onto the teeth, where they attack the enamel for twenty minutes or more. After repeated attacks, the enamel may break down, forming a cavity.

According to Stuttgart Dental Clinic Staff, to prevent tooth decay, tooth brushing and flossing are needed daily to remove harmful plaque from your child's teeth.

Children should clean their teeth twice a day with a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste. The clinic providers add that flossing will remove plaque that hides between the teeth and under the gum-line, areas where a toothbrush cannot reach.

Supervising your child while brushing and flossing will insure that a proper job is done. Clinic providers note that dental sealants can help prevent or re-



photos.com

duce tooth decay.

A sealant is a clear or shaded plastic material that is applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (premolars and molars), where decay occurs most often. The sealant acts as a barrier, protecting the decay-prone areas of the back teeth from plaque and acid.

Each tooth takes only a few minutes to seal, according to dental clinic staff.

When the sealant is applied, finger like strands penetrate the pits and fissures of the tooth enamel. Although the sealant cannot be seen with the naked eye, the protective effect of these strands continues.

As a result, it may be several years before another application of sealant is needed. Reapplication of the sealant will continue to protect against decay and

may save the time and expense of restoring a decayed tooth. Sealants are checked during your child's regular dental visit to determine if reapplication is necessary.

For long-lasting, healthy smiles, the Stuttgart Garrison Dental Clinic recommends a total prevention program including regular dental visits, the use of fluoride toothpaste, daily brushing and flossing and avoiding frequent between-meal snacks.

If these measures are followed and sealants are applied to the child's teeth, the risk of decay can be reduced or may even be eliminated.

For more information contact the USAG Stuttgart Dental Clinic at 430-8626/civ. 0711-680-8626.

Know the risks of oral piercings

USAG Stuttgart Dental Clinic release

Piercing, like tattooing, is just one of today's popular forms of "body art" and self expression. Piercing may seem daring, cool and totally safe because some celebrities use piercing to flaunt their particular style or attitude.

But piercing the tongue, lips, cheeks or uvula (the tiny tissue that hangs at the back of the throat) is not as safe as some would have you believe. That's because the mouth's moist environment – home to huge amounts of breeding bacteria – is an ideal place for infection.

Oral piercings can also interfere with speech, chewing or swallowing. An infection can quickly become life threatening if it's not treated promptly.

For example, oral piercing carries a potential risk of endocarditis, an inflammation of the heart valves or tissues. Bacteria can enter the bloodstream through the piercing site in the mouth and travel to the heart.

Piercing may also cause the tongue to swell. Some have reported swelling serious enough to block airways.

It's also very possible to puncture a nerve during a tongue piercing. If this happens, you may experience a "numb" tongue nerve damage that is sometimes temporary, but can be permanent. And damage to the tongue's blood vessels can cause serious blood loss.

In addition, piercing jewelry can sometimes cause allergic responses to the pierced site. The jewelry can even get in the way of dental care by blocking x-rays.

Don't pierce on a whim. The piercing will be an added responsibility to your life, requiring constant attention and upkeep. Talk to your dentist for more information.

National Nutrition Month® 2006

Label-ology: 101 Dissecting the Food Label

Join Registered Dietitian, Jody Benitz, for a walk down the commissary aisles and learn *label lingo* that can help you make smarter, healthier food purchases!



Thursday March 2nd & Thursday March 9th
08:30-10:00 at Patch Commissary.
Space is limited!!

Please call to register:
430-4608/0711-680-4608
Or email: jodyb@cmtymail.6asg.army.mil

Sponsored by WIC Overseas



in cooperation with DECA
and Patch Commissary



National Nutrition Month® 2006

Light Lunch Learning Series

Come SEE, TASTE and HEAR about the latest & greatest food info!



Meet the kernel ... and other great grains.
Thursday, Mar. 2
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Give PEAS a chance!
(Vary your veggies & focus on fruits.)
Thursday, Mar. 9
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Snack attacks!
(How to bite back.)
Thursday, Mar. 16
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stuttgart Wellness Center conference room, bldg. 2307, Patch Barracks

To register call 430-4608/civ. 0711-680-4608 or email jodyb@cmtymail.6asg.army.mil.



Sponsored by WIC Overseas
in cooperation with the Stuttgart Wellness Center.

Academics on the slopes

'Wonderful Wednesdays' teaches Garmisch youth more than skiing

Story & photo by Sue Ferrare

Skiing may only happen on the slopes, but learning happens everywhere, according to the people who work with the three ski programs for children and teens in Garmisch.

The programs, Wonderful Wednesday, Slippery Saturday and Super Saturday, are run by a small army of teachers, U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Child Development Center and Children and Youth Services personnel and volunteers.

Many people who work with these skiing programs want to put something more into it than just skiing.

Real world lessons

"The best thing is when you teach something and then use it in the real world," said Bill Morgan, an educational technician and part-time physical education teacher at Garmisch American School, who works with the Wonderful Wednesday program.

"We just make sure to integrate what we're teaching in the classroom so that it has a link to what we're doing on the hill," he added.

Phyllis Keely, first grade teacher at the school, agrees. She instructs a mixture of children who aren't her students, but said that what is learned on the ski slopes is talked about in the classroom.

She has her first graders "do a lot of language activities, such as putting things in order, progression, steps in a sequence, what equipment you need, [and] how do you put it on."

Learning doesn't happen just in the classroom, she said. Children can learn a lot of science, physics and mathematics lessons on a ski slope.

"[They learn about] friction, because they learn how to stop and what makes the skis go faster or slower [and] how to turn," she said.

Even her first-graders learn something when they learn how to make a wedge shape and why that stops their skis, as well as how to make them go faster or what happens when you flatten them out, she said.

Students in the higher grades learn more in-depth lessons while on the slopes.

Max Thom, an eighth-grader who has been in the Wonderful Wednesday program since kindergarten, explained that they usually have avalanche training for the older kids every year.

"[Instructors] cut a hole in the snow and show you the layers and what causes avalanches," Thom said. "They also show you the machine that shows you where the people are in the snow."

The best thing is when you teach something and then use it in the real world.

Bill Morgan
Garmisch American School

It's pretty helpful," he added.

Another eight-grader, Napolia Myhand, talked about how the students do math while on the slopes.

"They would take us up to the top and time how long it took to get down and we would do different math problems from that," he said, adding that they use a global positioning system to do other kinds of math and geography problems.

"One of the lessons we will have is [to] take a [Global Positioning Satellite] up on the hill with a couple of groups [of students], and they plot where they've been on the hill with elevation, latitude and longitude," Morgan said.

"Then the kids take that information and we make it into a graph and then, knowing elevation and looking at a topographical map, they have to determine where the people went on this trip," he said.

Lifelong lessons

Besides all of the other lessons the students learn on the slopes, Morgan emphasized that a huge benefit of the program is learning a lifelong skill.

"In the 10 weeks here they take away the ability to ski the rest of their lives," Morgan said. "And there's the cardiovascular [exercise] and the benefits of that, the muscle tone and everything else," he said.

Keely pointed to other benefits just as important to the program.

"[It benefits] children who have difficulty in school – the special needs children. Everybody learns to ski and the benefit for the special needs children especially is phenomenal," Keely said.

"The coordination it takes and the way that it helps them in other things is just phenomenal," she said.

This is part of the reason why the two other ski programs were started. One of those programs is Super Saturday, a ski program for 3- to 5-year olds registered at the Garmisch Child Development Center.

"This program is an excellent foundation for skiing and it gives a sense of



Michael Kramer practices his superhero pose while sliding down the slope on one ski during a Super Saturday ski session.

achievement and self-esteem to the child," said David Lonkhurst, a Child Development Center Education technician and ski instructor.

"For kids who have so much energy [in the classroom], they can excel and see the results," Lonkhurst said.

"The main reason I do it is the pure joy of seeing children excel. They start from nothing and progress slowly to achieve a level of skiing," he said.

The other program, Slippery Saturday, was started as a way to involve Garmisch students in grades 9 to 12 who attend the Munich International School.

But all the programs share another trait: making the most of the community's location. On this issue, many people agree with Angela Lambert, middle school and teen center director.

"With the mountains right here, I think it would be a shame not to get the most out of our surroundings," she said.

"It brings together so many community members, small and tall, between the children and all of our adult volunteers," she explained. "Also, we have youth in our community whose parents may not ski a lot. This gives them a chance to get out and do something different."

For more information about the Wonderful Wednesday program, contact U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Child and Youth Services at 440-2654/civ. 08821-750-2654 or CYS Sports & Fitness Director Lawrence Tindall at 440-2599/civ. 08821-750-2599.



Catherine Gradillas and her husband Manuel share a kiss as they take part in the first annual Cupid's Chase race Feb. 11 on Patch Barracks.

Lovers, runners converge on Patch for 'Cupid's Chase'

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

It's not every day that you get to kiss your partner in the name of friendly competition. But love – along with a plethora of kisses – was in the air Feb. 11 during U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's inaugural Cupid's Chase race.

More than 20 couples took part in the event, which required participants to run around the road adjacent to Husky Field on Patch Barracks and kiss their partners, who then completed the next lap.

Couples completed 10 laps (5 per runner) for a total of about 5 miles. The original plan was for the event to take place on the track on Husky Field, but, as she is wont to do, Mother Nature had her say and blanketed the track with snow a few days before the event.

The race was facilitated by USAG Stuttgart Sports and Fitness Coordinator Cory Doubek. Doubek said she tries to plan a community run every quarter (the last was the Great Pumpkin Race held in late October). Since running in the winter is often tricky, especially in Germany, she planned the Valentine's Day-themed Cupid's Chase race as a way "to do something different" and make it a couple's event, she said.

"Everyone had a great time and a lot of fun," she added. "I'm happy with the way it turned out."

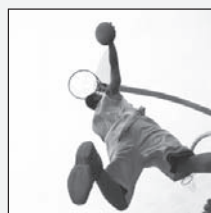
But for some couples, it wasn't just about fun – it was about competition.

Winners Heidi McKenna and Joe Gallagher edged out the second place team of Jon and Christine Graham by just 7 seconds. Nelson Hendrix and Pam Cytron took third, and the winning couples took home prizes such as gift certificates for a massage and a dinner at LeRose.

Stefanie Bosnijak, who took part in the event with her husband John, participated in the race because she thought it would be fun, she said. But for Sanna Warren, competing with her husband Sean, the event also proved to be difficult. "The hardest part was stopping and starting, she said. "But it was fun and that's what it was for."

The next community race is the Spring Fling, which, like last year, will help kick off the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month April 1. The 5K race will take place in the woods adjacent to Patch Barracks. For details or to register call 430-4386/civ. 0711-680-4386.

Community-level basketball game:
Stuttgart Stallions vs. Bamberg Barons
March 11, 1 p.m., Patch Fitness Center





A Lithuanian athlete surges through the course in the women's 15 km biathlon Feb. 13. Biathlon, a sport that combines cross-country skiing with target shooting, was held in Cesana San Sicario, a mountain resort one hour outside Turin.

Turin showcases athletes, culture in Olympic Games

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

Whether it was Lindsey Jacobellis' hotdog grab in the final jump of the women's snowboardcross finals that cost her the gold medal or Ted Ligety's come-from-behind dash through the slalom gates on Sestriere to seize the men's combined title, this year's Winter Olympics in Turin provided many surprise finishes.

With 2,500 athletes from 85 countries vying for 84 gold medals, the real dilemma was whether to pack the cowbell, trumpet or both.

Cultural Olympiad

It was on the same night that American Chad Hedrick skated his way to Olympic gold in the men's 5000-meter final that Turin's *Teatro Regio* performed Puccini's "La Bohème" to a sold-out audience.

Featured in the city's Cultural Olympiad program, the opera premiere marked just one of many attractions that showcased the city's rich cultural heritage alongside the two-week sporting spectacle.

Long after the Olympic caravan packs its tent and puts out the flame, Turin hopes to entice would-be travelers to visit its world-class museums, baroque piazzas and charming coffee-houses.

Tucked away in the northwest corner of Italy, Turin is often overshadowed by Italian hot spots Venice, Florence or Rome. But nothing can beat drinking a *bicerin* (coffee combined with milk, cream and chocolate) under the gaze of the Alpine mountains.

The city's cultural heart lies in the *Piazza San Carlo*, where *Via Roma*, the city's version of the Champs-Élysées, and *Via Po* with its expensive designer stores converge into a bustling plaza of outdoor *gelateria* shops, restaurants and museums. It was in this plaza that Katie Couric and the NBC team broadcast its 400 hours of non-stop curling drama.

Besides housing the largest collection of Egyptian antiquities outside of Egypt, Turin is internationally famous for housing the Holy Shroud.

But unless you're related to the Pope or you're the Man of Steel, there's little chance of catching a glimpse of Turin's most famous and controversial relic.

The 4-yard piece of cloth, said to be used to wrap Christ for burial, is safely locked away in an iron box, inside an altar, behind a glass wall, in the *Capella della Sacra Sindone* church.

Though the shroud remained under lock and key during the Olympics, the rest of Turin stayed open well into the evening hours to keep the nearly 1 million jubilant fans entertained.

What's next?

For sport enthusiasts living in Europe, this summer serves up a full course menu of world-class events.

The FIFA World Cup 2006 will be contested in 12 cities throughout Germany, including Stuttgart, June 9 to July 9.

In July, the world's top cyclists pedal nearly 2,500 miles in quest of Tour de France glory. With 21 stages and just two rest days, Le Tour offers many chances to catch up with the peloton. The race's first two stages will be contested in Strasbourg, just one-and-a-half hours from Stuttgart.



[Top] The Mole Antonelliana offers a stunning bird's eye panorama of Turin. [Above] A fan celebrates a goal during the Latvia-U.S. men's hockey match Feb. 15 in the Palasport Olimpico.

OUT & ABOUT

Lange Nacht der Museen

Stuttgart opens up its cultural treasures during Lange Nacht der Museen **March 18, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.**

The annual bus romp through more than 80 cultural venues, including museums, art galleries, movie houses and theaters, is a chance to experience a sampling of Stuttgart's many cultural attractions.

Tickets cost 12 euro and may be purchased at the Tourist Information Shop located on Königstraße near the Hauptbahnhof.

Bundesliga in Stuttgart

Catch live Bundesliga action when VfB Stuttgart takes the field against Borussia Dortmund **March 11, 3:30 p.m.**, in Bad Cannstatt's Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium (S-Bahn Neckarstadion).

Visit the VfB shop on Königstraße 23-25 or the stadium's ticket box on game day.

Jazz guitarist in Schorndorf

Avant-guard jazz guitarist Marc Ribot and the Frimfram Collective (winners of last year's Baden-Württemberg Young Jazz Newcomers award) take the stage **March 3, 8 p.m.**, in Schorndorf's Manufaktur.

For more information visit www.club-manufaktur.de or call 07181-614-18. The venue is located at Hammerschlagstrasse 8 and can be reached by S-Bahn 2 (stop Schorndorf).

The club also includes a restaurant that serves a variety of German dishes. Kitchen opens at 6 p.m.

DAZ hosts NATO lecturer

Stanley Sloan, a specialist of international security topics from the North American Trade Organization, will deliver the lecture, "How Does Religion Affect U.S.-European Relations?" **March 15, 7:30 p.m.**, in the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum.

The center is located at Charlottenplatz 17 (U-Bahn 5 or 6). For a complete list of DAZ-sponsored activities visit www.daz.org.

Classical music in Gaisburg

The SWR Choral Ensemble Stuttgart performs an evening of classical music with pieces from Robert Schumann, Heinrich Schütz and György Kurtág **March 11, 8 p.m.**, in the Evangelische Kirche.

The church is located in the Gaisburg district (U-Bahn 9 to Schlachthof or U-Bahn 4 to Gaisburg).

For more information visit www.musik-in-gaisburg.de or call 0711-483-443.

Horse gala in Schleyerhalle

The Apassionatata Horse Show will be held **March 3, 8 p.m.** This is an absolute must for any fan of horse riding.

For more information visit www.schleyerhalle.de or call 0711-255-5555. The hall is located at Mercedesstraße 69 (U-Bahn 11 to Gottlieb-Daimler Stadion). Tickets range from 24 to 110 euro.

Explore Europe with the Stuttgart USO

Don't limit yourself to life behind the installation fence.

Europe offers vacation destinations most Americans only dream of – and the Stuttgart USO can help you make memories that will last a lifetime.

For more information:

- Visit the USO office (Patch Barracks, Washington Center, 1st Floor)
- Call 430-5559/civ. 0711-680-5559
- Log onto www.uso.org/stuttgart.



Adoption Support Group

Next Meeting:
March 8th
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Patch Barracks, Bldg. 2307
2nd Floor

Families that are just starting the adoption process are brought together with those who have gone through the adoption process as well as professionals to help answer questions & ease concerns.

Topics include:

- ♥ How to choose an Adoption Agency
- ♥ Home Studies
- ♥ The Waiting Game: Stress Management

As well as any other topics families may be struggling with in an overseas environment.

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